GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2966
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
AIR INDIA FLIGHT TO CHENNAI COCHIN GOA
Abdullakutty Shri A.P.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chennai-Cochin- Goa route of Air India has been cancelled by the Government;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of private airlines are operating from this destination;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the approximate loss due to route cancellation; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to arrange the air services to the passengers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): Subsequent to the merger of Indian Airlines and Air India into the National Aviation Company of India Limited(NACIL),the Chennai-Cochin-Goa-Kuwait flight has been restructured as Chennai-Goa-Kuwait flight with effect from 28th October, 2007.

(c): At present, no private scheduled airline is operating any flight on Chennai-Cochin-Goa route.

(d): As per NACIL, the restructuring of the Chennai-Cochin-Goa route is expected to yield savings as the revenue generated on these sectors did not meet the cost of operations.

(e): The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country.It is,however up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to complaince of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.